

NATIONAL EPA-TRIBAL SCIENCE COUNCIL

Conference Call Summary Monday, October 17, 2011 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Saving Time

Participants

Jeff Mears

Tribal Science Council Tribal Co-Chair
Oneida Tribe of Indians (Region 5)
Phone: (920) 869-4555
E-mail: jmears@oneidanation.org

Ted Coopwood

Tribal Science Council Agency Co-Chair
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Children's Health Protection and
Environmental Education
Phone: (202) 564-2197
E-mail: coopwood.theodore@epa.gov

Monica Rodia

Tribal Science Council Executive Secretary
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Research and Development
Phone: (202) 564-8322
E-mail: rodia.monica@epa.gov

Ken Bailey

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Science Policy
Phone: (513) 569-7841
E-mail: bailey.ken@epa.gov

Felicia Barnett

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 4
Phone: (404) 562-8659
E-mail: barnett.felicia@epa.gov

Thomas L. Baugh

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 4
Phone: (404) 562-8275
E-mail: baugh.thomasl@epa.gov

Sirirat (Tia) Chullakorn

Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts
Point Rancheria (Region 9)
Phone: (707) 591-0580, ext. 113
E-mail: u2sc@yahoo.com

Mike Durglo

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes of the
Flathead Reservation (Region 8)
Phone: (406) 883-2888
E-mail: miked@cskt.org

Brenda Groskinsky

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 7
Phone: (913) 551-7188
E-mail: groskinsky.brenda@epa.gov

Robert (Bob) Hall

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9
Phone: (415) 947-4123
E-mail: hall.robertk@epa.gov

Glynis Hill

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Policy
Phone: (202) 564-1139
E-mail: hill.glynis@epa.gov

Stanley Holder

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 7
Phone: (913) 551-7374
E-mail: holder.stanley@epa.gov

Elizabeth (Beth) Jackson

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Environmental Information
Phone: (202) 566-0626
E-mail: jackson.elizabeth@epa.gov

Lon Kissinger

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10
Phone: (206) 553-2115
E-mail: kissinger.lon@epa.gov

James Leathers

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 6
Phone: (214) 665-6569
E-mail: leathers.james@epa.gov

Allison Martin

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Research and Development Intern
Phone: (202) 564-0845
E-mail: martin.allison@epa.gov

Kathleen (Kathy) Mayo

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
Phone: (312) 353-5592
E-mail: mayo.kathleen@epa.gov

Katie Renwick

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Phone: (828) 497-1832
E-mail: katerenw@nc-chokeee.com

Joseph Schubauer-Berigan

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Research and Development
Phone: (513) 569-7734
E-mail: schubauer-berigan.joseph@epa.gov

Kai Tang

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 2
Phone: (732) 321-4364
E-mail: tang.kai@epa.gov

Patti Tyler

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 8
Phone: (303) 312-6081
E-mail: tyler.patti@epa.gov

Felicia Wright

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Water
Phone: (202) 566-1886
E-mail: wright.felicia@epa.gov

Kelly Wright

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (Region 10)
Phone: (208) 478-3903
E-mail: kwright@shoshonebannocktribes.com

Contractor Support

David Bear Carrillo

DBC Consulting
Phone: (703) 626-1619
E-mail: beartowork@me.com

Donna Jackson

BLH Technologies, Inc.
Phone: (240) 399-8726
E-mail: djackson@blhtech.com

Kristen LeBaron

The Scientific Consulting Group, Inc.
Phone: (301) 670-4990
E-mail: klebaron@scgcorp.com

Roll Call/Introductions

Monica Rodia, Executive Secretary of the National EPA-Tribal Science Council (TSC), welcomed the members to the teleconference and took roll.

September Teleconference Minutes

Monica reported that the September conference call minutes had been reviewed, finalized and distributed to the members. She recommended that those members unable to attend the monthly teleconferences read the minutes to stay informed about current TSC activities.

Tribal Caucus Report Out

Jeff Mears reported that he had the opportunity to meet with Ted Coopwood in Milwaukee, WI, on October 4, 2011. Ted and Jeff are looking to improve their communication and decided to hold regular Co-Chair conference calls. The two discussed the December business meeting as well. Ted thanked Jeff for meeting him in Milwaukee and noted that all of the TSC members will benefit from the increased communications between the two Co-Chairs.

Mike Durglo reported that Randy Ashley is attending the Region 8 Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) meeting this week in South Dakota.

TSC Winter Business Meeting

Monica stated that the Cherokee Nation will host the TSC winter business meeting in Tulsa, OK. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the National Tribal Caucus (NTC) meeting. Monica asked the TSC members who have not done so already to contact her regarding their attendance. She is looking into costs to provide videoconferencing for those who cannot attend.

Glynis Hill reported that she tried to make a reservation at the meeting hotel and was told that the new tower was not available at the meeting rate. Donna Jackson noted that the contract does not specify which tower, and she will contact the hotel to ensure that the room block is large enough to include rooms in the new hotel. She added the hotel provides a complimentary airport shuttle.

Monica remarked that there had been an issue with smoking during the prior TSC meeting that was held at this hotel, and asked if nonsmoking facilities could be made available. Glynis noted that the old (Cherokee) tower is combined smoking and nonsmoking, and the new (Hard Rock) tower is completely nonsmoking. Donna said that the hotel had informed her that the room block would be nonsmoking, so she will ask the hotel about this issue when she contacts them about the room block. She asked that the TSC members not make reservations until she can discuss the tower issue with the hotel.

Under travel, Monica has received most of the Tribal Caucus members' travel forms and explained that Lee Juan Tyler or Kelly Wright would be traveling to participate in the National Tribal Caucus meeting and would attend the TSC meeting as available. Monica requested travel forms from the following Tribal Caucus members no later than the week of October 24 to ensure that there is enough time to complete the travel authorizations: Jeff, Katie Renwick, Curtis Munoz and John Mosley.

Ted explained that the goal was to develop the agenda with full participation from the TSC. Ted and Jeff invited the TSC members to join a workgroup to develop the agenda for the winter business meeting. The goal of the business meeting will be to determine how the Tribal Science Priorities (TSPs) can be implemented in Indian Country at the community level. This will require a better understanding of implementation in existing programs, including what elements are needed. The following members

volunteered to serve on the Agenda Development Team: Mike, Jeff, Tia Chullakorn, James Leathers, Glynis and Katie; David Bear Carrillo will be involved with the agenda development as well. Monica will contact the Team members by e-mail about meeting during the week of October 24. The group also needs to discuss what it will present to the NTC regarding the TSPs; it must be clear and achievable. Bear added that the message needs to have a joint Tribal-EPA voice.

If members have ideas or suggestions for agenda topics, they should contact Jeff, Ted or Monica. Patti Tyler thanked Ted for the opportunity to be involved and volunteered to provide input on the agenda once it has been completed. Bear said that the group also needs to develop a unified definition of implementation, which can vary significantly.

Tia asked whether the TSC would be working with the NTC's workgroups. Ted stated this needed to be discussed by the Agenda Development Team to determine how best to work with the other Tribal workgroups and determine their understanding of implementation. Monica noted Katie did a great job collaborating with the National Tribal Air Association while developing the TSPs. Tia said that a starting point might be for TSC members that work with other Tribal workgroups to determine how to best collaborate. Monica agreed and noted that Dan Kusnierz, Denise Jensen and Felicia Wright serve on the National Tribal Water Council, and she thought that Caren Robinson served on the Tribal Pesticide Program Council.

Tribal-Focused Environmental Risk and Sustainability Tool (T-FERST)

Ken said that a live demonstration of T-FERST and a presentation about different approaches to using the tool would be included during the winter business meeting. TSC members are invited to follow along on their own laptops so that they can provide additional input and help create a better tool. Monica added that Region 6 tribes possibly will be involved in the demonstration to provide their feedback.

Monica added that Allison Martin has been collecting feedback on T-FERST. Tribal input is needed regarding how useful the tool is, what can be improved and so forth. Allison is acting on the comments, and some minor adjustments to the tool already have occurred based on the feedback. Allison emphasized that it is important to examine the tool and provide feedback by the **November 23 deadline**. Aesthetics have been changed as a result of comments, and now the team is examining the data inventory; T-FERST only will be as good as the input data. The goal is to collect data that are relevant to the tribes and program offices to ensure that T-FERST has the best available information. Brenda Groskinsky did not think that the changes would be made until after all of the feedback was compiled. Allison explained that she will be working with technical personnel in Research Triangle Park, NC to implement the changes. TSC members to contact her with any feedback.

Monica explained that plans were being made to discuss T-FERST and key science issues with National Tribal Caucus members during a roundtable lunch at the winter business meeting. Monica will send information to the TSC about the roundtable discussion once it is finalized. One of the goals of the discussion is to obtain NTC input regarding TSP implementation "on the ground" so that it positively impacts tribal communities. The TSC Tribal Caucus is expected to lead this discussion. She encouraged the Agenda Development Team to think about ideas for this lunch prior to meeting the following week.

Ken reported that Steve Crawford will introduce T-FERST to the seven tribes in Region 1 during the Region 1 RTOC meeting on October 26 in Portland, ME with the goal of eliciting their feedback. A movie will be shown, and Ken will attend via teleconference.

Beth Jackson reported that her office is hosting the Apps for the Environment Meeting, which will include developers of mobile phone applications for environmental purposes. T-FERST will be demonstrated at the meeting by Allison and Monica, and other EPA tribal efforts will be highlighted. Her

office also is accepting abstracts for the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) meeting next spring and would like significant tribal representation. Abstracts are due on November 19; Beth previously sent the information to the TSC members via e-mail, and further information is available at <http://www.epa.gov/tri>. TSC members can contact Beth for more information. The TRI meeting will have a sustainability focus, with topics broader than just TRI issues.

Ken thought that Bart Hoskins (Region 1) could send information to the TSC members about the MERGANSER model, which focuses on mercury assessments in New England. Monica said that Bart possibly could present about the model during the next TSC teleconference.

Mike reported that he had submitted an application to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which was soliciting applications in three categories: (1) participation in landscape cooperatives, (2) development of vulnerability assessments in action plans, and (3) participation in climate change workshops and other meetings. Mike applied within the category of development of vulnerability assessments in action plans. He noted that the tribes and other organizations are in the infant stage regarding what the term “implementation” means, as it affects everyone differently. Funding is available from various organizations (e.g., U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development). Many areas are affected, including air, water and vegetation, making the topic overwhelming to consider. Defining implementation will be a difficult task. Ted agreed that it would be difficult because of the complexity of the issue, and it is important for everyone to work together. The TSC must determine to the best of its ability what implementation will look like in tribal communities and how it can be achieved. Monica agreed and said that significant discussion would be required to determine what the TSC actually can accomplish; she suggested that the TSC start small and build on that.

Felicia Wright stated Bob Perciasepe had announced that the Agency is investigating holding listening sessions to obtain input and determine how EPA can put the recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences report on sustainability into practice. The TSC should determine whether it will be involved in this effort. Monica thought this may be a good discussion for the winter business meeting.

Announcements

There were no announcements. Monica and Ted thanked the members for participating and adjourned the conference call at 3:04 p.m.

Action Items

- ✧ Donna will contact the meeting hotel about the block of rooms in the tower and the smoking situation.
- ✧ TSC members who have not done so will contact Monica about their attendance at the winter business meeting.
- ✧ Tribal Caucus members who have not submitted their travel forms for the winter business meeting must submit them to Monica no later than the week of October 24.
- ✧ Monica will contact the Agenda Development Team members about meeting via teleconference during the week of October 24.
- ✧ TSC members will send any agenda ideas to Monica, Jeff or Ted via e-mail.
- ✧ Monica will send information to the TSC members about the roundtable lunch discussion with the NTC once it is finalized.

**NATIONAL EPA-TRIBAL SCIENCE COUNCIL
CONFERENCE CALL
OCTOBER 17, 2011
2:00 PM - 3:00 P.M. EASTERN STANDARD TIME**

Call-in Number: **866-299-3188**
Access Code: **2025648322#**

FINAL AGENDA

- 2:00 – 2:05 Roll Call/Introduction of new representatives
- 2:05 – 2:10 September minutes distributed for review and finalized
- 2:10 – 2:20 Tribal Caucus Report Out (Jeff Mears)
- 2:20 – 2:40 Tribal Science Council Winter Business Meeting
 - Co-Locate Meeting with National Tribal Caucus (joint session)
 - Cherokee Nation in Tulsa, OK, hosting week of December 5, 2011
 - Logistics (Donna Jackson, BLH Technologies, Inc.)
 - Travel arrangements for Tribal Caucus – travel forms needed ASAP!
 - Meeting Agenda
 - Invitation to participate on workgroup, provide input on topics, and develop final agenda
- 2:40 – 2:55 Tribal- Focused Environmental Risk and Sustainability Tool (T-FERST)
 - Feedback on tool
 - Upcoming demonstrations/training:
 - Region 1 RTOC Oct. 26 – Passamaquoddy Pleasant Point Pilot
 - EPA Apps for the Environment – November 8 in Arlington, VA
 - TSC Business Meeting – December 5–9 in Tulsa, OK: Hands-on training sessions and roundtable lunch discussion on key science issues
- 2:55 – 3:00 Announcement(s)
 - Tribal, EPA Regions and Program Offices

Next conference call—***November 21, 2011, from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. EST***